

**AMENDED VERSION**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

5. (Twice Amended) A synthetic nuclease resistant antisense oligodeoxynucleotide for selectively inhibiting human tumor necrosis factor alpha, said antisense oligonucleotide comprising: an exon targeting an exon sequence of TNF- $\alpha$  that flanks at least one donor splice site, said targeting thereby inhibiting expression of TNF- $\alpha$ .